

THE MURPHY CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED,
WHEATHAMPSTEAD,
HERTS.



ADVISORY BULLETIN No. 1

ON

The
Apple Blossom Weevil
(ANTHONOMUS POMORUM, LINN.)

KEEP THESE BULLETINS IN THE GRATIS FILING
COVER WE SUPPLY.

The Apple Blossom Weevil.

THIS pest oviposits by boring a small hole in the base of the unopened apple bud, placing an egg therein and then sealing this hole up with saliva. Although only one egg is laid in each blossom, a single female can probably lay fifty eggs or more. Unless the growth of the bud is very rapid, the newly hatched larva, by feeding on the stamens and pistils, entirely prevents the fruit setting. When the normal flowers are shedding their petals, the infected blooms will have turned quite brown and be still unopened. They are then termed "Capped Blossoms." If growing conditions are particularly favourable it is possible that the bud may open and flower before the larva has time to do much damage.

A method of control of this pest which is now being advocated is the use of a DERRIS DUST.

We advise a first application of this dust at the GREEN BUD stage (*i.e.* when the protecting leaves have just opened to expose the *green* fruit bud in the centre) and a second a week or ten days later. In the case of a severe infestation of weevil, or if the PINK BUD stage is delayed by adverse weather conditions, a third dusting again a week later is advisable.

The dust will kill or paralyse the ADULT WEEVILS, with which it comes in contact, as they crawl about over

the tree, thereby preventing oviposition. Therefore thoroughness of application is essential in order to coat the whole of the tree with a fine layer of dust. This is best achieved by dusting during the still conditions of the EARLY MORNING, from 4 a.m. to about 7 a.m., or in the EVENING when there is little or no wind.

Generally, about 40 lbs. per acre is sufficient for the first dusting and about 56 lbs. per acre for the second or third applications.

It is essential that the dust should have a guaranteed Rotenone content of not less than .2% and that it should be light in order to give a good cover to the tree. The dust is better if of the current season's manufacture, for it will lose a lot of its toxicity if stored from one season to another.

For Apple Blossom Weevil control it is advisable to use Derris only as a dust. Used as a wet spray it appears to have very little effect against this particular pest.

If there are any other points upon which you require information for the control of Apple Blossom Weevil, or if you are not certain this is the pest that is causing you loss, do not hesitate to write us. If possible, forward specimens, securely packed, of attacked or diseased buds, or of any insects themselves that may be found on the trees. If last season you found unopened blossoms with the petals in the shape of a dried, fawn-coloured or brown cap with a small hole neatly drilled at the base of the petals, then you can be sure that Apple Blossom Weevil is seriously reducing your chances of securing a good crop.

March, 1934.

